Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils to practice medicine in India.

High prices of AIDS drugs

3985. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of AIDS patients are unable to purchase the drugs prescribed by the doctors of AIIMS and other Government hospitals in the country due to high prices of these drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons for high prices of these drugs;

(c) whether generic equivalent to these medicines can be manufactured by the Indian companies;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide subsidy on such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Government of India provides funds to State AIDS Control Societies for the treatment of opportunities infections to HIV/AIDS patients in public sector hospitals. All such drugs are being manufactured in the country.

Neglecting Homoeopathic Industry

3986. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are neglecting the homoeopathic industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of steps taken by Government to encourage the homoeopathic industry in the country by conforming to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)?